would be borne by them and the expenditure of Rs. 56.59 crores, over and above the committed liability would be the likely requirement of central assistance. The allocation of Rs. 65 crores, for the year 1997-98 should, therefore, suffice.

Implementation of the persons with disabilities Bill, 1996

2161. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that nearly 10% of the country's population is disabled who face some special handicap in their socio-economic environment;

(b) whether provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Bill, 1996 was enacted to meet these handicaps;

(c) whether highlights of the Bill were to provide special amenities in State buses for persons with wheelchair, buildings with ramps to facilitate wheelchair users, restrictions on employers, free and adequate education up to the age of 18 for disabled persons, special teachers training etc; and

(d) if so, how many of these provisions have been implemented so far, with details?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Estimates of the number of persons with disabilities vary, depending on the definitions, the methodology and the extent of use of scientific instruments in identifying and measuring the degree of disability. In the year 1991 NSSO conducted a countrywide survey covering (i) visual (ii) hearing (iii) Speech and (iv) locomotor disabilities. About 16.15 million people were estimated to have one or the other of the 4 types of disabilities mentioned above. This constitutes 1.9 percent of the total estimated population of the country.

Apart from it, NSSO conducted a nationalwide survey to assess the number of children with delayed mental development during the year 1991. The survey showed that 3% of the children in the age group of 1-14 years are suffering from delayed mental development. Various surveys conducted in different parts of the country show that prevalence of mental retardation is approximately 2% of population.

(b) The Act provides for both preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation like education, employment and vocational training, reservation, research and manpower development, creation of barrier-free environment, rehabilitation for persons with disability, unemployment allowance for the disabled, special insurance scheme for the disabled employees and establishment of homes for persons with establishment of homes for persons with severe disability etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Implementation of the persons with Disabilities Bill, 1996

(a) The implementation of the provisions of the Act require a multi-sectoral collaborative approach of all concerned Ministries of the Central Government, the State/UT Governments and other appropriate authorities. While in the area of prevention, early detection and intervention, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Department of Women & Child Development have

to play a major role, in the area of education of children with disabilities, Department of Education has to integrate these programmes within their schemes/programmes. For the creation of barrier free environment, the Ministries of Urban Areas and Employment, Surface Transport, Railways and Civil Aviation have to take various positive steps. In the area of employment and training, Ministry of Labour has an important role. It is to be emphasized that the concerns of the persons with disabilities has to be included as a part of the mainsteam development programmes of the country.

(b) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation has been registered on 24-1-97 with the aim of supporting entrepreneurial efforts of persons with disabilities and bring them into the mainstream of economic activity.

(c) The Government is in the process of finalizing the "National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Mental Retardation and Cerebral Palsy Bill" for Cabinet approval.

(d) The post of Chief Commissioner and the minimum personal staff have already been created.

(e) All State Governments have been requested to take necessary steps including provision of budgetary allocation for speedy implementation of the provisions of the Act. Union Welfare Minister has taken up the matter with the Chief Ministers of the States and Prime Minister has already writen to Central Ministers and Chief Ministers of the States in this regard.

(f) A conference of State Secretaries incharge of persons with disabilities was held on 12-2-1997 at New Delhi to discss the implementation of the Act.

(g) Many aspects specified in the Act in respect of facilities for disabled children are being covered by the Ministry of Human Resources Development Integrated Education for the Disabled Children (IEDC) Scheme. During the current year the resources under IEDC have been augmented to expand its coverage.

(h) Under Ministry of Human Resources Development, District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) launched in 1994 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Integrated education for all children with mild to moderate disabilities is being given special emphasis. Financial parameters have been worked out and guidelines have been evolved for this purpose.

Training Institute for specialising teachers in disabilities

2162. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to implement the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and full Participation) Act, 1996;

(b) name of the State Transports which provide for access facilities for persons with wheel-chairs in their vehicles; and

(c) The number of training institutions set up for specialising teachers in disabilities?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) A statement is enclosed. (*See* below).

(b) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act.